

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Samuel P. Langley, January 27, 1904

231 January 27, 1904. Dr. S. P. Langley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. Dear Professor Langley:

I beg to hand you herewith a statement of the expenses I have incurred on behalf of the Smithsonian Institution in connection with the removal of the remains of James Smithson to the United States, together with vouchers for the same. The whole amounts to the sum of 957.85 lire.

Yours sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell Committee of the Regents In charge of the transfer of the remains of James Smithson to the United States.

STATEMENT.

Exportation tax, 360.00 Lire

Undertaker's bill, 81.85 “

Mason's bill, 17.00 “

Gardener's bill with his assistants, 69.00 “

Freight to New York from cemetery, 430.00 “

Total, 957.85 “

232 January 27, 1904. Professor S. P. Langley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. Dear Professor Langley:

Library of Congress

On the 25th of January I handed over to Assistant Secretary Rathbun for you, the decree of the Prefect of the Province of Genoa, permitting the exportation of the remains of James Smithson to Washington.

I now have the honor of handing over to you: -

1. A certificate of the U. S. Consul at Genoa, dated December 31, 1903, relating to the exhumation of the remains of James Smithson, signed by seven other witnesses of the exhumation.
 2. The reply of Noel Lees, Esq., on behalf of the British Burial Ground Fund Committee, to my application for the custody of the remains of James Smithson, dated January 2, 1904.
 3. Copy of a certificate made by William Keene, the British Consul-General, at the request of the Municipal Bureau of Hygiene, December 30, 1903, in Italian and English, the said copy being in the handwriting of Mr. Bishop, U.S. Consul at Genoa.
 4. Certificate of the Acting Mayor of Genoa, dated January 4, 1904, stating that all the requirements of the existing Regulations on Mortuary matters had been complied with.
- 2
- 233 5. Certificate of William Henry Bishop, U. S. Consul at Genoa, dated January 7, 1904, relating to the exhumation of the remains of James Smithson and the transfer of the remains to the steamship Princess Irene.
6. A copy of Dr. Alexander Graham Bell's application to the Prefect of the Province of Genoa, dated December 29, 1903, for permission to remove to the United States the remains of James Smithson, in Italian and English, the said copy being in the handwriting of Mr. William Henry Bishop, U. S. Consul at Genoa.

Library of Congress

Yours sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell Committee of the Regents in charge of the transfer of the remains of James Smithson to the United States

234 January 26, 1904. Professor S. P. Langley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. Dear Professor Langley:

Last night in cutting out from the report of the Committee on the transfer of the remains of James Smithson to the United States, the three recommendations on page 10, I neglected to cut out the reference to these recommendations on page 11. May I therefore trouble you to erase the last sentence of the report which reads as follows:-

“With these recommendations I conclude, and your Committee asks to be discharged”.

Yours sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell